

STATE OF ARKANSAS
BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT

PUBLIC HEARING

FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2001

MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS

APPEARANCES:

On Behalf of the State Of Arkansas:

Michael D. Huckabee, Governor

Mark Pryor, Attorney General

Olan W. Reeves, Office of the Governor

Tim Humphries, Office of the Secretary of State

Larry Crane, Assistant Attorney General

Greg Kirkpatrick, Office of the Attorney General

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1 FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2001, ASU-MH, MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS,

2 McMULLIN LECTURE HALL, DYER BUILDING, 4:30 p.m.

3 BY MR. COULTER:

4 On Behalf of ASU-Mountain Home, I want to extend a word of
5 welcome to you, and I'm going to protect your time here. I
6 just want to say two things. Number 1) Mountain Home's a
7 wonderful place and your attendance today shows your support of
8 the political process. Number 2) We're delighted to have so
9 many dignitaries with us, most importantly our governor. A lot
10 of miracles have taken place to accomplish Arkansas State
11 University-Mountain Home, and many of them are attributed
12 directly to Governor Mike Huckabee. I turn the meeting over to
13 him.

14 (audience applause)

15 BY GOVERNOR HUCKABEE:

16 Ed must be wanting another grant.

17 (audience laughter)

18 Not so long ago we got here and he was on his way in; I
19 said, Ed, you just missed the grant presentation, we had
20 another million dollars but you weren't here to get it, so
21 we're just taking it back to Little Rock.

22 (audience laughter)

23 Ed got down on the floor and cried.

24 It's such a pleasure to be with you this afternoon and I
25 want to thank all of you. This is amazing that this many

1 people turned out on a late Friday afternoon in the middle of a
2 very hot July day. We are voting among ourselves that as of
3 today we're changing our dress code, because we have eleven of
4 these meetings around the state and today this is the third.
5 We started, unfortunately, up in Fayetteville and then here,
6 and then next week we have several in other cities across the
7 state. I think we've all decided among ourselves that this is
8 the last coat and tie hearing that we would conduct, so
9 consider yourselves extraordinarily fortunate to see us all
10 dolled up, but if the temperatures continue to hover like this,
11 we're going to be in polo shirts and khaki, I think, for the
12 rest of these hearings, but we can listen just as effectively,
13 and probably more so, when we're just a wee-bit more
14 comfortable than today.

15 It's just a pleasure to be up in this part of the state.
16 We're grateful we see people from a number of counties across
17 North Central Arkansas. The Board of Apportionment, as many of
18 you may know, by law is made up of the governor, the attorney
19 general, and the secretary of state.

20 I want to say Sharon Priest has been with us in the first
21 two meetings and wanted to be here today but had already been
22 scheduled for a graduation exercise this evening and it was
23 impossible for her to make it to Mountain Home and still make
24 the evening appointment. So I wanted to let you know that she
25 sends her regards. Also genuinely wishes she could be here.

1 Her staff, of course, has been involved in this process and are
2 here today. She is well represented but mostly it is not a
3 slight to you; not anything on her part. It is strictly of
4 matter of just impossible scheduling, so she had to depart us
5 in Fayetteville but does send her regards.

6 The main purpose we have here today is to give you an
7 opportunity to make comments. It's really not a time for
8 debate or even really a lot of questions about why did you do
9 this, why don't you do this; we'd love to have your comment.
10 You're free to say: Why don't you do something or will you
11 look at something, because that's really what we're here to
12 assess your views as citizens as to the various redistricting
13 maps that are going to be presented to you.

14 It's quite a daunting challenge that happens every 10
15 years when population numbers come out and it's necessary after
16 that period of time to get the Board of Apportionment together
17 to try to make it so that 100 House districts are equally
18 divided in population and 35 Senate districts are equally
19 divided in population fulfilling the Supreme Court mandate of
20 one person-one vote.

21 And that's really the primary target and goal that we have
22 as the Board of Apportionment. It's not a perfect process,
23 Number 1, because boundary lines, whether they're river or city
24 or county boundary, are not perfectly drawn, they're not all
25 nice little square blocks and people don't move into counties

1 and cities by a proportionate number so that it makes it real
2 easy and clean.

3 Plus, sometimes what happens is that any decision made to
4 move numbers in one precinct has a rippling effect through the
5 entire state. So you can bring in some numbers in one district
6 but it has an effect through the rest of the state and that's
7 why sometimes it's very difficult to get it right.

8 I would be unfair if I were to sit here today and take a
9 lot of the credit for the really hard work that's been done.
10 There have been hundreds, if not thousands, of hours of staff
11 time from the offices of the governor, attorney general, and
12 the secretary of state. Our folks have worked very well
13 together.

14 Again, they have spent hundreds of hours together going
15 through the maps on the computer software that you will see in
16 just a moment and then trying to come up with proposed maps. I
17 think they are probably in the twentieth or thirtieth draft of
18 the House plan and about the same number for the Senate plan,
19 and we're here today to find out what you think about it, take
20 input, and then to hopefully render some type of final decision
21 in the way the districts will look by Labor Day.

22 At this time, I'd like to ask Attorney General Mark Pryor
23 to give opening comments and following Attorney General Pryor's
24 comments then we'll turn it over to Butch Reeves, who's chief
25 legal counsel in our office and he's also my representative on

1 the board; he'll give a little explanation about the process.
2 Then we'll open it to your questions, and when we do that, I
3 need to ask this of you, if you would, come to the microphone
4 that's here at the front; we need for you to do that Number 1
5 so the other people in the room can hear you, and the other
6 reason is because we are recording all of these sessions so
7 that if you say nice things about you, we lower your taxes.

8 (audience laughter)

9 If you say nasty things about you, we raise your taxes,
10 okay.

11 (audience laughter)

12 Seriously, it is so that we can have a complete record of
13 the proceedings and when you come to the microphone, if you
14 will state your name, your home town, and then whatever
15 comments you have that will be helpful to all of us. So Mr.
16 Attorney General.

17 BY ATTORNEY GENERAL PRYOR:

18 Thank you, Governor, and Mr. Chairman. And you mentioned,
19 under the State Constitution, there is the Apportionment Board,
20 in fact, you all are witnessing some American, something unique
21 in American government, and that is we're the only state in the
22 union that does our reapportionment this way. But it makes
23 sense, because we have the chief executive officer, the chief
24 elections officer, and the chief legal officer all sitting down
25 to try to re-draw the House and Senate districts every 10 years

1 and we try to be fair.

2 One thing that we do and we try to do is be very, very
3 inclusive and have very much of an open door and get a lot of
4 input from anybody that's wanted to have input up to this
5 point: We've tried to do that and the staff has been wonderful
6 and they've prepared us a draft here and we're going to talk
7 about that here in a few minutes and let everybody look at
8 that. We'd love to have your comments, your input on that,
9 about the pros and cons and the strengths and weaknesses of
10 what you see.

11 But I must say that as part of this process, I've talked
12 to hundreds of people for hours on end about how the districts
13 ought to look. And maybe I was in a bad mood the other day, I
14 don't know, but I decided to play a joke on a particular state
15 senator; Jim, you'll appreciate this. And I decided to play a
16 joke on this senator and I called him up and I said, Senator,
17 I've got some bad news for you.

18 He said, what's that?

19 I said, we have eliminated your district.

20 (audience laughter)

21 And he said, what do you mean?

22 I said, well, listen. Your neighbor from the east came
23 in, he made his pitch, and so we gave him half your district.
24 And your neighbor from the west came in and he made his pitch
25 and we gave him the other half of your district.

1 He said, Mark, let me tell you about those two guys.

2 (audience laughter)

3 He said, my neighbor to the east, he's a shyster. His
4 daddy before him was a shyster and he'll just never amount to
5 anything. My neighbor to the west, he's in the state senate
6 for one reason; he's trying to figure out how he can line his
7 own pockets.

8 I said, whoa, whoa, Senator. I said, wait a minute. I
9 said, I was just kidding. I was just joking.

10 (audience laughter)

11 We didn't eliminate your district, we drew it just exactly
12 how you wanted us to do it; I was just pulling your leg.

13 He said, Mark, he said, how could you make me say that
14 about two of the dearest friends I have.

15 (audience laughter)

16 But that's kind of how this process is. I mean, it's an
17 important process and it is emotional sometimes. But it's an
18 important process because it really is our democracy. I mean,
19 this is every 10 years we re-draw these districts and these
20 districts will be with us for 10 years. They outlast all the
21 folks that are in office right now due to term limits and we
22 really have made every effort to be fair and do the right thing
23 and to be just as we approach this, and I just appreciate all
24 of you being here and I want to follow the Governor's advice;
25 I'm going to take my jacket off.

1 So, Butch, I'm going to turn it over to you.

2 BY MR. REEVES:

3 Thank you. I am Butch Reeves, a lawyer on the governor's
4 staff. In this process, we got the census numbers about mid-
5 March, but before we got the census numbers, we came to this
6 room right here, last fall, we went to 13 cities around the
7 state getting public comments. After we got the numbers, we
8 loaded them into the computer. We've been meeting since about
9 the third week of April. Tim Humphries from Sharon Priest's
10 office, Larry Crane from Mark Pryor's office, and, of course,
11 Greg from our office has been helping as well. We've been
12 meeting almost on a daily basis since the third week of April.

13 We've had input from many of you, phone calls, Emails,
14 personal visits, representatives, senators, civic clubs,
15 mayors, county judges, quorum court members, you name it;
16 they've talked to us to try to get a plan that is evenly
17 distributed as we can.

18 The United States Constitution says, as interpreted by the
19 US Supreme Court, one person-one vote. In order to do that,
20 that means once we have the census numbers, every House
21 district should be as close to 26,734 as possible; every Senate
22 district should be 76,383, or as close to that as possible.
23 There is a variant range above and below those numbers, but
24 that's been the goal.

25 The Arkansas Constitution says that the board's decision

1 on drawing these districts should not be arbitrary. That means
2 they need guidelines, they need guiding principles that they
3 follow. And these are what they are as set out by the federal
4 courts, mainly the United States Supreme Court.

5 The geographic considerations that we used were
6 compactness, as compact as we can get them. Contiguity, that
7 means that they touch. The preservation of political
8 subdivisions, such as cities and counties, if possible and
9 where possible. And then the political and legal
10 considerations included in that for the preservation of
11 communities of interest.

12 For instance, we heard in some counties we're hill people,
13 we don't have anything in common with those flat-landers on the
14 other side of the river.

15 (audience laughter)

16 Whatever that means. But it's those kinds of issues.
17 We're rural; we're urban. But in a small state like Arkansas
18 with many rural counties it's very difficult to make that
19 always a reality, but that is something we took into
20 consideration.

21 Preservation of cores of existing districts that includes
22 incumbents. You know, a district that has existed for several
23 years, many years, we tried to preserve that, if possible, but
24 where a county or an area of the state didn't gain 13.7 percent
25 of the population, they actually lost. So if your county lost

1 population, you're going to suffer because your district has to
2 get bigger to get enough people in it. That's basically what's
3 going on.

4 And the last thing is compliance with Section 2 of the
5 Voting Rights Act, that's a consideration we have to take into
6 account. And so with those principles, we started. We started
7 with the '91 map, the white ones, put the census numbers that
8 we got down in there just to see who was over and who was
9 under, and from those we started drawing districts. We started
10 in Lake Village and went west, we started in Texarkana and went
11 east, we started in Fayetteville and went. We did all that
12 several times over. We have divided Ft. Smith at least 18
13 times, Fayetteville, you name it; we've done everything. These
14 are the best suggestions we've come up with, but now that
15 you've had them, had a chance to look at them and can think of
16 some comments that's really what we're here for today, to hear
17 your comments as to what you like or don't like, what you want
18 us to change, what you prefer to be moved. That's really what
19 this hearing is about.

20 The court reporter has asked that you please state your
21 name because there will be a transcript. When and if we get
22 sued those transcripts will be very important.

23 (audience laughter)

24 We've been told at every hearing we went to last fall
25 we're going to be sued by one side or the other. If you do

1 this, we're going to sue you. If you do that, we're going to
2 sue you. If you don't do that, we're going to sue you. So,
3 you know, we've heard all that.

4 But if you could state your name. If it's just really
5 impossible to come down here to the microphone, talk really
6 loud and say your name for the court reporter, but if you could
7 come here, she'd appreciate it and we would too.

8 But who'd like to be first?

9 BY MILDRED HOMAN:

10 I would like to be first and get it over with. I have a
11 statement prepared and I timed myself; it's 4 minutes. I hope
12 I won't be offending any rules because you've said nothing
13 about that. I have to say I'm not too happy -- oh, my name,
14 I'm sorry. Mildred Homan; I'm rural Baxter County.

15 I'm not too happy with the way Baxter County is once again
16 divided among three legislative districts, House districts.
17 I'm here to request that you give reconsideration to the way in
18 which you have suggested Senatorial District 1 lines be drawn.
19 A better word is gerrymandered.

20 Gerrymandered because the two most populace cities in
21 North Central Arkansas are both proposed be included in
22 District 1, while Senatorial District 2 has no city of
23 comparable population to serve as a focal point for leadership.

24 I became aware of what is unfair redistricting when I
25 heard from a reliable source that the Commission stated that

1 theirs would be the final boundary of the district and any talk
2 about further changes are off the table. This does not
3 demonstrate a willingness among the Commission's part to listen
4 to input from the public at these scheduled meetings. When I
5 heard that this is the Commission's position, a red flag went
6 up.

7 Ron Maxwell, director of intergovernmental affairs for
8 Secretary of State Sharon Priest, was quoted as saying very
9 candidly, quote: Our, that is the democrats, ultimate goal is
10 to try to draw districts that will give democrats a chance of
11 winning senate seats. Closed quote.

12 This convinces me that gerrymandering in the partisan
13 sense of the word is taking place here. This is applicable to
14 our situation since we understand a democrat from the proposed
15 Second District Senate seat seems to feel that with Harrison in
16 that district he would not have a chance of winning the seat,
17 but he would have a chance to win the district without Harrison
18 in that district.

19 Incidentally, if one looks at voting patterns at the local
20 and state level in North Central Arkansas, it is apparent that
21 a good candidate from either party with the right support and
22 hard work could win that Senate seat.

23 I am proposing that Harrison and its immediate environs be
24 placed in the new District 2 and that the eastern census blocks
25 of Boone County along with the entire of Searcy County be

1 placed in proposed District 1. The census blocks of eastern
2 Boone County to be as equal in population as possible when
3 added to population of Searcy County, which would offset the
4 Harrison area population move to District 2.

5 Which is the plan now.

6 This should not be a partisan issue and we would not be
7 opposing it if the Commission had followed the four goals Mr.
8 Maxwell indicated have to be met when redrawing districts.

9 1) The populations of the district must be as near to
10 equal as possible. I have not had access to the accurate
11 numbers of the census blocks, but I understand the deviation
12 with the current proposed boundaries is 4 percent, which 5
13 percent being the maximum allowed. With the change I am
14 suggesting, I understand we could reach nearly a zero percent
15 deviation.

16 2) Communities of interest or population groups with
17 similar attributes in particular areas must be maintained.
18 Baxter County will be part of the First Congressional District
19 for the next decade and Searcy County is already in the First
20 District.

21 3) Incumbents must be protected. There is no incumbent
22 to, quote, protect, in Harrison, as the present senator is Gary
23 Hunter and he is term limited. It is apparent an effort is
24 being made to protect an incumbent from a neighboring district.

25 4) Each district shape must be reasonable. If Searcy

1 County is moving into Senate District 1 along with a section of
2 eastern Boone County, both Districts 1 and 2 would take a
3 better geographic and contiguous form. And I maintain it would
4 be to the advantage of District 2.

5 And quick glance at the proposed District 1 shows an
6 unnatural jog, for lack of a better word, to eliminate Harrison
7 from proposed District 2. My proposal would cure the erratic
8 jog by removing Harrison from District 1 and placing it in
9 District 2.

10 Although it is really not fair to place Mountain Home and
11 Harrison in the same district anymore than it would not be fair
12 to place Bentonville, Rogers, Springdale and Fayetteville in
13 the same districts. According to Senator Dave Bisbee, the
14 Commission panel went along with local wishes for the
15 northwest. Senator Bisbee said, quote: They did exactly what
16 we asked them to do in the Senate districts.

17 Mountain Home and Harrison are growing very rapidly in
18 importance in North Central Arkansas and will continue to grow
19 at an even more rapid rate in the next decade. Each of these
20 cities deserve their own representation in the Arkansas Senate.
21 The Commission began its deliberations with their stated goals
22 to be impartial and nonpartisan. The Commission's
23 intransigence and stated unwillingness to consider placing
24 Harrison in Senate District 2 and adding Searcy County to
25 Senate District 1 confirms Mr. Maxwell's statement, and it

1 seems to me that Secretary Priest concurred, to draw the
2 boundaries to benefit the Democrat party.

3 It is my hope that today's hearing will result in a fair,
4 nonpartisan boundary between Senate District 1 and Senate
5 District Number 2 allowing a city of moderate size in each of
6 the two districts.

7 And I want to thank you for my opportunity to present this
8 to you.

9 (audience applause)

10 BY ATTORNEY GENERAL PRYOR:

11 I want to thank you for comments there and say that when
12 Ron Maxwell made those comments he was not speaking on behalf
13 of the board. He was not speaking on behalf of me.

14 BY GOVERNOR HUCKABEE:

15 He sure wasn't speaking on behalf of me.

16 (audience laughter)

17 BY ATTORNEY GENERAL PRYOR:

18 And I really don't think he was speaking on behalf of
19 Secretary of State Priest because, actually, you know, Sharon
20 and the Governor and I have never really talked about
21 redistricting in private because it would be an FOI issue if we
22 ever sat down and discussed things, so we never have, but I can
23 say all of Sharon's public statements, as well as the meetings
24 I've had with people, some in this room who have talked to
25 Sharon, and then as I've talked to them they tell me the things

1 Sharon said. She's always talked about being fair and being
2 very nonpartisan.

3 I think that Mr. Maxwell's comments were unfortunate;
4 she's not here this leg of the trip. She's been at the
5 previous two stops and it's unfortunate she can't be here, but
6 she had a scheduling conflict. But I do appreciate that, and
7 that's why we're here; we're here to listen. We're here to get
8 input, so I appreciate your comments.

9 BY MR. REEVES:

10 If you think you want to make a comment, if you'd go ahead
11 and make your way and come over here, it would speed things up
12 a little bit for all of us, so if you think you want to
13 comment, just go ahead and you can just kind of line up and
14 start talking. Who's next?

15 BY WILLIAM GOODSON:

16 Good afternoon. My name is William Goodson, I'm from
17 Harrison, Arkansas; I am, among other things, the chairman of
18 the economic development committee for the Harrison Chamber of
19 Commerce. And basically I would like to echo some of the
20 sentiments of the previous speaker. I do not have a prepared
21 statement, but I feel like that's a tough act to follow. I
22 thought she did an excellent job of presenting.

23 But basically what I'm here to ask along with some other
24 people from Harrison, including the chamber of commerce, is
25 that this be reconsidered so that Boone County could be in one

1 congressional -- or Senatorial District, rather. The entirety
2 of Boone County. Boone County has been split for at least 20
3 years. On the issues that were discussed earlier, Item Number
4 3 was maintaining political boundaries and this is something
5 that we had heard about from the beginning.

6 We believe that it has been greatly to Boone County's
7 detriment that for 20 years, at least to our knowledge, Boone
8 County has been split between two state senatorial districts.
9 And Boone County grew 20 percent in this last census; in the
10 1990's Boone County grew 20 as opposed to 13.7 percent for the
11 state as a whole.

12 Harrison is the largest city between Fayetteville-
13 Springdale-Rogers and Jonesboro. It's the largest city north
14 of Russellville, Conway, et cetera. And we believe, I believe,
15 that Harrison deserves to be a focal point of a senatorial
16 district itself and that with the current drawing of the
17 senatorial districts we are sort of a suburb to Senatorial
18 District Number 1.

19 As far as the political-like interest the point was made
20 earlier about Baxter County becoming part of the US
21 Congressional District 1, which we will not be.

22 From an economic standpoint, Harrison is much more attune
23 to Berryville, Green Forest, and cities to the west of us
24 because we are an industrial manufacturing community with some
25 tourism, we have a lot of agriculture, whereas we see Mountain

1 Home as being a retirement center and a vacation spot with some
2 industry, but there's not a lot of common interest between
3 Mountain Home and Harrison.

4 And there's a great deal of common interest, and, in fact,
5 we're talking to the chamber of commerce in Berryville right
6 now about forming a consortium of chambers of commerce. This
7 is something that was discussed this past week at the
8 Opportunity of Arkansas Conferences about regional activities,
9 and so we're looking at trying to form something like that with
10 the communities to our west.

11 And basically that's my comment. I'd just like to see it
12 re-done so that Harrison and Boone County were both in one
13 senatorial district. Thank you.

14 (audience applause)

15 BY HAROLD CRAWFORD:

16 My name is Harold Crawford; I'm Sharp County judge, Sharp
17 County, Arkansas. First of all, Honorable Governor and
18 Attorney General, I want to thank you and your staff for the
19 hard work you have put in.

20 As most of you probably know by now, we had quite a
21 lengthy matter with the Apportionment Board down in Little Rock
22 and there has been some headway made. Thanks, and we
23 appreciate that.

24 As most of you know, I'll try to do this as quickly as I
25 can, but I feel like it's so important to our people. As most

1 of you know, I think a lot of you probably got a lot of letters
2 from our people and we have a lot of our people in the audience
3 here today. And it's my job as the leader of the county, as
4 yours as the governor of the state, to present to the people or
5 try to lead the people in the right direction for what they
6 want. It's not what the county judge wants but what the people
7 want.

8 And our people feel like in the last 10 years we've been
9 badly mistreated. We've been sitting up there with four
10 representatives and it sure dilutes our strength down in Little
11 Rock and various places. Now, we have two of our present
12 representatives sitting in the audience today, and I can't say
13 enough of those two fellahs, Paul Weaver and Boyd Hickinbotham.
14 They have done a great job for us, but we just feel like we
15 have been mistreated. Working with the Apportionment Board and
16 you guys, we looked at a lot of options and we, thanks to you
17 and some help you've already given us, we've got it down to
18 two. But we still feel like, you know, as most of you know,
19 and the Apportionment Board knows, we presented you our own
20 plan and our plan was four counties, which was Fulton, Sharp,
21 Izard, and Stone.

22 And the reason for this being, the reason we presented
23 this proposal of the four counties is it just so happened the
24 magic number worked out right. The Fulton, Sharp County,
25 Izard, Stone County, two districts worked out perfect. One

1 district's 26,439 and the other district 26,825. And the
2 reason for this being, I'd like to say, is the fact that we've
3 got three counties there, the Sharp, Izard, and Fulton, that
4 work very closely in everything we do. We're all together in
5 partnership on Tri-County Recycling Waste Center; we're all
6 partners in the Tri-County Conservation Districts for the three
7 counties. We've got the Tri-County Fair between the three
8 people. And we just feel like that we could have been better
9 represented if we put these four counties together because the
10 numbers work to where we'd have our representatives closest to
11 us. You know, in some cases our representative's 70 miles
12 away. This would put both of our representatives within 25
13 miles of the farthest point. And we'd love this.

14 But the Apportionment Board worked real hard and they
15 didn't see it feasible to do. You know, the fact being, you
16 know, and my question is, is why do we always have to move west
17 up in the heel of Sharp County to get the numbers for the boys
18 over in Lawrence. You know, all we ask is one time, you know,
19 move a little farther east, move a little farther south. You
20 know, if you have to go down to Jackson County, I understand
21 the representative's down there not even running for re-
22 election.

23 You know, they have some of these numbers. You know,
24 regardless of whether we talk about it or not, it's all
25 politics. And this is all we're asking is to be fair about it,

1 but, you know, we probably know that this plan, we're not going
2 to get it, it's probably not going to work. But we're going to
3 propose it right now until the end. But the things we would
4 like to ask, and, again, we want to say thank you, guys,
5 because I worked with all these guys down there. They were
6 very generous, very nice, and very gentlemanly. And they did
7 work for a solution and to get us down to two representatives.
8 And we could buy that plan, if you do one other thing for us.

9 One other thing. We feel, let's go to politics one more
10 time. I won't hold any punches with you, okay. We feel like
11 that Sharp County is one of the largest growing counties in the
12 State of Arkansas. If you'll look back for the last several
13 years we're right on top percentage-wise. We're growing at a
14 fast rate.

15 We feel like in Sharp County, if you'll check the records
16 too, for a rural county we're one of the most educated counties
17 in the rural counties in Arkansas. We have the people there
18 with a lot of knowledge, a lot of degrees, we've got all kinds
19 of resources to call on there. We feel like somewhere along
20 the line that we, in Sharp County, should have a fair chance to
21 have a shot of putting our own representative, if we ever
22 wanted to, down in the state house.

23 (audience applause)

24 And I think most of you know, you know, if my figures are
25 right, I've done a lot of work on this, and if my figures are

1 right, Mr. Hickinbotham is going to come over and he's going to
2 take 8,107 of our people. Mr. Harmon Seawel's going to come
3 over and take 9,012 of our people. Well, most of you know, you
4 know, if you're only representing 8,000, well, you've got to
5 over somewhere's else and pick up basically nearly 19,000
6 people. Where is the weight? Tell me where's the weight.
7 Same way over in Mr. Seawel. Someway's we could live with this
8 if you could crunch the numbers and give us the weight of the
9 numbers in one of those districts.

10 We wouldn't want to, but we could live with it. And,
11 again, I know the job that you had. We sat down with these
12 gentlemen, they were so patient. There was one point that
13 there's no wonder they didn't kick me out of the room.

14 (audience laughter)

15 I'll be very honest with you. But they did work real hard
16 with us. And, you know, and I tried to get it. And I
17 understand that you've got a problem with minorities. You
18 know, when you start going east and you start going south, I
19 understand you get into the more minority districts; we
20 understand that. But, you know, by golly, we feel like we've
21 been a little bit of a minority for the last 10 years and we
22 feel like that we have been kicked around enough the last 10
23 years. To the next 10 years we could live with it, if you
24 could give us a chance.

25 And all we're asking, and all the good people of Sharp

1 County here today is asking, we're fair people. All we want is
2 something fair for us. And we would ask, you know, first of
3 all, look back at the proposal that we did. Mr. Pryor, I know
4 you will and that all of you will and know well about this.
5 And this wasn't my idea; this is citizens of Sharp County. And
6 we've had two town hall meetings up there on this and they
7 packed the hall. They're upset about it, they have a right to
8 be upset; I'm upset about it.

9 Basically what we're upset over is the last 10 years. You
10 could go out through my county today and ask the big percentage
11 of the people, that's their fault, I understand that, but they
12 couldn't tell you who their representatives are because the
13 lines have been split up so many ways.

14 And, gentlemen, this is about all I have to propose to
15 you. But I'll assure you this. I know you're looking at a
16 goal sometime in October and we sure will be back to you along
17 the line in talking to you, and if you could see in your hearts
18 in someday I think you'd hear from what you see that we do
19 deserve a chance, and all we're asking for is a chance to get
20 our foot in the door someday.

21 Thank you very much.

22 (audience applause)

23 BY JOE LeBLANC:

24 My name is Joe LeBlanc and I live in Baxter County, but
25 I'm not here representing Baxter County right now because I've

1 had a request from a friend of ours in Pope County. Apparently
2 Pope County, I don't know whether they've met or been at any of
3 the other meetings or not, but I've been asked to read this
4 brief letter from Dr. John Montgomery, who is the chairman of
5 the Pope County Republican Committee in Pope County.

6 The Pope County Republic Committee has directed
7 the chairman to express their concerns as the county
8 is redistricted in the 2000 census data, by the 2000
9 census data. When the county was redistricted in
10 1991, the county was divided into six House of
11 Representative districts. We were subdivided into
12 segments, which guaranteed one representative,
13 District 30, and in reality prevented anyone from
14 being elected from the remaining districts as a
15 segment of the county. As in each of the other five
16 districts, the candidate was forced to run against
17 candidates from other population centers,
18 Clarksville, Clinton, Dardanelle, Danville, and
19 Morrilton, the probability of a successful race was
20 infinitesimal.

21 As a decision is made, please understand that
22 Democrats, Republicans, elected officials, civic
23 clubs, and members of the general public all agree
24 that the format designed in 1991 was flawed. People
25 who live in the smaller split townships of London,

1 Dover, Hector, Pottsville, and Atkins feel left out
2 of the political process. They seldom see or hear
3 their representatives except during an election year.

4 All of the aforementioned groups agree that the
5 county can be better represented by two House
6 districts, one being basically the City of
7 Russellville, and the other representing the other
8 areas of the county. The 2000 census data reported
9 54,485 as the Pope County population. The same
10 report indicated 2,674,300 population for the State
11 of Arkansas. That means 26,743 on an average should
12 be represented by a member of the House of
13 Representatives. Therefore, if Pope County were to
14 be split into two district that would mean that a
15 representative would represent approximately 27,000,
16 which is certainly within a reasonable margin.

17 We request that the redistricting committee
18 respect the public input from Pope County during the
19 public forums. We acknowledge that we are part of
20 the state and one of 75 counties. However, we know
21 well the consequences of being divided into six House
22 districts for the last 10 years. We would not wish
23 that honor on any other county in Arkansas. During
24 the forums, we have consistently requested two House
25 districts.

1 State Senator Sharon Trusty asked that I review
2 a map of her potential senatorial district. In the
3 House and Senate in a representative democracy the
4 format is to be based upon census data and an
5 equitable representative plan.

6 The process should guarantee a fair and
7 equitable chance at being elected to public office.
8 However, in a recent meeting I learned incumbents
9 were to be protected as districts are being designed.
10 One should be reminded that Sharon carried each
11 segment of the counties in her district except Yell
12 County, 48.5 percent. We should not attempt to draw
13 a district based on a potential opponent. When that
14 is done we almost assuredly guarantee the election of
15 Sharon as well as the election of her perceived
16 opponent who could run in another district by
17 manipulating the design.

18 We do not desire to exclude any elected official
19 who currently represents a segment of Pope County.
20 We only desire to improve the Pope County design of
21 the districts for future election.

22 That was basically what he's asked me to present and I, in
23 looking at the maps before, I notice that his county has been
24 reduced from six representatives to four representatives. Is
25 that three or four?

1 BY MR. REEVES:

2 Four.

3 BY MR. LeBLANC:

4 Four representatives, so, anyway those are the comments
5 that he's asked me to present to you during this session. I
6 thank you for taking that into consideration.

7 BY DON BISHOP:

8 I'm Don Bishop, and I'm a citizen of Harrison in Boone
9 County and I've come also as the chair of the Democratic Party
10 of Harrison, Boone County.

11 We talk about, I'm here to talk about both of the Senate
12 and the House districts. The House district, one of the
13 primary goals is to maintain a community of interest, and get
14 within 10 miles on Highway 65 I've got three different
15 districts. Farmers whose sons have farms nearby are going to
16 be in a district separated from the family. I don't understand
17 why we have three districts within 10 miles of each other.
18 That's not a community of interest maintained.

19 As far as the Senate district goes, Harrison and Boone
20 County have a wide influence in everything with it peers except
21 politics. The reason I say that is that the way this is cut
22 up, the city limits of Harrison on the north and the west
23 become the eastern boundary of District Number 1. And you know
24 which direction Harrison's growing? The north and the west.
25 So very soon any growth in Harrison will involve a difference

1 in a district.

2 The way this is divided up Harrison does not become the
3 center of influence that it should be. For 50 miles around if
4 you want to shop, if you want to go to school, if you want to
5 do something for entertainment, you come to Harrison. For 50
6 miles and yet, and now Mountain Home is the same way. You can
7 come too. Mountain Home has its own center of influence and
8 some of it overlaps, but still we have the Number 2 Wal-Mart
9 store, man, we were important.

10 (audience laughter)

11 And, yet, when two very fine citizens of Harrison are
12 appointed by the governor to important commissions somebody
13 from outside of Boone County blackballs them. Two, they were
14 Republicans; they were good men. I say that as a Democrat.
15 They were two very fine men. Larry Brandt and Sandy Stroope --

16 (audience applause and laughter)

17 -- got black balled. They would have represented Harrison
18 and Boone County with dignity. They would have done a
19 wonderful job, Governor. And yet a senator from outside of
20 Boone County kicked them out. And that's just wrong. That's
21 not right for the City of Harrison; it's not right for Boone
22 County.

23 (audience applause)

24 We should have our own district where we can say what goes
25 on and where we can have our proper influence in the City of

1 Harrison and not be betrayed by somebody else.

2 And that's all I have to say. Thank you.

3 (audience applause)

4 BY LAYNE WHEELER:

5 I am Layne Wheeler, and I'm the president of Harrison
6 Chamber of Commerce, and I would like to expound a little bit
7 on Don's comments on the community of interest from an
8 industrial and work force involvement.

9 He mentioned that the city is growing north and the way
10 the senate line are drawn at this point, that can draw the
11 northern part of our city into a separate senatorial district.
12 We also have the issue about our workers that we see in Searcy
13 County, in Newton County, and some into Carroll County, also
14 going to be split. We have about 6,600 workers that work
15 everyday in Harrison. We have about 11,000 total population.
16 So you know from that that we are pulling from those areas.
17 We've done research to see where our circle of influence
18 is and our community of interest. It is Newton County. You
19 can tell that by the traffic things that are going in. It is
20 Searcy County up. And it is Carroll County coming over and it
21 is over into Marion County about as far as Yellville in that
22 direction.

23 So you can see by splitting Harrison with that unnatural
24 jog that's out there, you have the place where people are
25 coming to work and the place that people are coming to shop and

1 where most of that interest is being split out and pulled away
2 from the vast majority of the people there have an interest in
3 Harrison.

4 For the last 10 years, we have been split between three
5 House districts and between two Senate districts. That makes
6 it very difficult for everything we're trying to do. And, as
7 Don said, it makes it difficult whether you're a farmer that's
8 trying to deal with something politically, whether it's
9 somebody needing help from the state level for grants or
10 anything else, we have lost a lot of that clout that comes from
11 having our people and our community where a center of that
12 population area lives being split between those.

13 So I would also like to ask that we look at moving the
14 eastern part of Boone County and Harrison back into District
15 Number 2, which is the natural fit for us.

16 Thank you so very much.

17 (audience applause)

18 BY MR. REEVES:

19 Who wants to be next? Anybody else?

20 BY JOE BENNETT:

21 I'm Joe Bennett from Harrison too. I'm a citizen of Boone
22 County and was raised there and I came over here really as a
23 chauffeur for three ladies, my wife and Laverne Grace and the
24 county judge, and Mrs. Mullford, the county clerk, so I'm
25 speaking here sort of on the spur of the moment and I don't

1 have a big plan here, but I would like to reiterate or re-
2 emphasize what Miss Homan has said and also Don so eloquently
3 and also Mr. Goodson, perhaps from a different viewpoint with a
4 different perspective.

5 Y'all have done a great job, Governor Huckabee and General
6 Pryor, and of course the redistricting board and the help that
7 you have here. I know it's a tough job. I don't know how
8 you've done it. I don't know how you can change it, but I want
9 to re-emphasize how important it is, I think, for the citizens
10 of Boone County to have, to be in a senatorial district that is
11 not split.

12 I know when a county gets to be a certain size, like
13 Benton and Washington, you've got several senators up there,
14 but we really do, I think the citizens up here need to have
15 very much so a representative from the senate for us. And I
16 don't know about this gerrymandering thing; I don't want to get
17 into that. I do know it's one of the things that has been in
18 the news here lately, but this is not, this is going along with
19 what Miss Homan says. I'm assuming that she's a Republican;
20 I'm a Democrat. It looks like we're in the same ballpark here
21 with this thing, so that may be unusual.

22 Based on that alone, I hope that you all can strongly
23 consider putting Harrison-Boone County in some way into a
24 district in which we can have our own senator, which I think we
25 really deserve.

1 Thank you very much.

2 (audience applause)

3 BY ED COULTER:

4 Name's Ed Coulter; I live on Buzzard Roost Road. I'm the
5 big buzzard in Mountain Home, Arkansas. I want to speak to the
6 senatorial seat from another kind of perspective.

7 Twenty-four years ago I was junior high principal here in
8 Mountain Home, Arkansas and I was an official member of the
9 Goblins for Lunch Bunch. This was an active group and this
10 spells out what a wonderful rivalry that we have had between
11 two cities and what has happened in those 24 years to Harrison,
12 Arkansas and Mountain Home are phenomenal.

13 It seems to me that in your guidelines, Butch, one thing's
14 missing. You're not looking forward. And I would say to you
15 two youngsters sitting up here, 10 years from now when you look
16 at this and say, where did we goof up? There's no way Harrison
17 and Mountain Home will be in the same district 10 years from
18 now. Your population shifts, the growth of these two fine
19 cities, and there's no reason to pit us against one another.
20 Harrison has probably one of the best two-year colleges in the
21 entire state, and we're developing one.

22 There are many reasons that we shouldn't pit these two
23 cities against each other. We should be applauding and working
24 together. Thank you.

25 (audience applause)

1 BY RICHARD TURNER:

2 My name is Richard Turner and I live in Baxter County
3 about as far north as you can go in Baxter County in a
4 community called Clarkridge. Clarkridge is 12 miles north of
5 Mountain Home and on the west side of Lake Norfolk. I'm
6 involved actively in the fire department, which is a rural
7 volunteer fire department in that area, and in your House
8 apportionment map, you have orphaned, I think, about 1,500
9 people that are west of Lake Norfolk that would be included in
10 the district with Fulton County.

11 Many of our ties are with the people in Mountain Home and
12 the rest of Baxter County as a fire department all the way from
13 automatic aid and mutual aid and if we end up with a
14 representative that represents us that may be fifty or 60 miles
15 away, there's no way that communications will be the same in
16 terms of trying to obtain state grants and help on state grants
17 and different kinds of financial support that the fire
18 department needs.

19 I think that's it.

20 (audience applause)

21 Don't applaud yet. If you take all this advice into
22 consideration, here comes revision ninety-seven.

23 (audience applause and laughter)

24 BY AMY LAKEY:

25 My name is Amy Lakey and I am the mayor of Norfolk. Our

1 population is 484. We are a very small community and we are in
2 Baxter County and I believe there is a proposal somewhere that
3 I heard where Salesville and Norfolk would be placed in another
4 district. Our ties are with Mountain Home and I would
5 appreciate it if you would keep Norfolk in the same district
6 with Mountain Home.

7 Norfolk is the home of the Wolf House; when it is restored
8 and completed, I invite you all to come.

9 Thank you.

10 (audience applause)

11 BY RICHARD HART:

12 Greetings. I'm Richard Hart from Harrison in Boone County
13 and currently serving as the chairman of the Boone County
14 Republican Committee. I feel kind of last or whatever,
15 everything has been said, I think, all the good lines, and it
16 appears as though the Baxter County area and the Boone County
17 area seem to be in accord with the fact that we should be in
18 different districts.

19 I don't know how the numbers just work out and I know that
20 it is a very complicated deal being on the election commission.
21 In Boone County we're working on JP Districts, which is kind of
22 an exciting thing, but having Boone County in the area with
23 Carroll County certainly seems to be more of a positive move,
24 as far as I can tell, in that that part of the community that's
25 the direction that we seem to be growing and we have so many

1 people from there.

2 As was stated by Layne, why, we certainly have a
3 tremendous influence of people from Newton County and Searcy
4 that both come into Harrison and perhaps, you know, that's some
5 of the -- I won't say giggling of the numbers, but perhaps
6 something can be done in that area. But the underlying thing
7 that I can see from every comment that's been made so far is
8 that the Boone, Mountain Home, and Harrison all definitely have
9 their own stand to take and should be represented in a separate
10 way.

11 Thank you.

12 (audience applause)

13 BY KERRY EVANS:

14 My name's Kerry Evans, I'm from Hardy, Arkansas.
15 Governor, if you ever need my tailor to help you keep cool --

16 BY GOVERNOR HUCKABEE:

17 Kerry's a smarter guy than we are. I'll say that.

18 BY MR. EVANS:

19 Sometimes I wonder. But I felt and I didn't actually
20 intend on coming up here, but our judge's speech made me want
21 to come up here because as a citizen of Hardy, Arkansas and a
22 resident of Sharp County, Arkansas, it does feel like that
23 we've been shysted for the last 10 years and I will go back as
24 far as, you know, I can. I'm forty-four-years-old and I can't
25 remember having a central representative from the area of our

1 actual county.

2 And I will reiterate what the judge said by saying that
3 Mr. Hickinbotham and Mr. Miller are both fine gentlemen and
4 represent their areas very well and helped as much as they
5 could with our area, but we are the third largest growing
6 county in the State of Arkansas, Sharp County. The only
7 problem with that is we are not growing economically-wise; we
8 are just growing population-wise. And without representation
9 in our central area, I think that it's a fact that you'll come
10 back 10 years from now and you'll see that Sharp County will be
11 the third, fourth, fifth largest growing county in the State of
12 Arkansas but it'll just be with people; we won't have jobs.

13 We have got to figure out a way. And I'll give you an
14 example. In 1948 there was a construction plan to build a
15 bypass around Hardy, Arkansas. Well, this is 2001 and there is
16 still a construction plan to built a bypass around Hardy,
17 Arkansas.

18 (audience laughter)

19 I think every person in this room here that has been to
20 Hardy, Arkansas, knows that we need a bypass.

21 (audience applause)

22 In our rural area, even though we've got fine gentlemen,
23 four of them, representing us right now, they don't live in
24 Hardy and they don't have to fight the traffic every day and
25 they don't live in Jonesboro coming to their fair town to spend

1 their money, but there's -- I couldn't use numbers because it
2 wouldn't be fair, there are no numbers. But I don't know how
3 many people from Jonesboro and Memphis who don't come to
4 Mountain Home because they can't get through Hardy.

5 (audience laughter)

6 That's the truth. We need some representation so we can
7 get some construction in our county. The Delta region, which
8 consists of forty or 50 counties and there's a deal on how we
9 got in it; I don't have any idea, but we're in it. On the
10 average, a county in the Delta region economic development deal
11 has got anywhere from three to 15 grants that average from five
12 hundred to millions of dollars.

13 Do you know how many Sharp County's got? One. For
14 \$15,000. It was an advertising grant. It's not, you know,
15 I'll use the term: Nobody loves the government more than me.
16 We live in the best country in the whole world, Republic,
17 Democrat, you know, I vote for the man. I don't care who it
18 is. If you do a good job, I'm going to vote for you.

19 But the truth is without representation, we're stuck. We
20 are growing like crazy, but it's not helping us any. People
21 growth doesn't help you. We need some kind of a, you know, I
22 fought real hard to try to get a lake built in the county.
23 It's not going to happen because, you know, if we're going to
24 build a lake, you know, we're going to build it over there
25 close to somebody else's property or won't do it, you know,

1 something like that's going to go.

2 Luckily we are getting a college in our county, a two-year
3 college. I think that'll help a bunch. But until we can get
4 representation to represent our area, then we've got problems.
5 That's why we're here. And I want to commend the judge because
6 he has spent countless hours with y'all, I know that, and with
7 the people of Sharp County trying to line this thing out. And
8 I know exactly what you're talking about when you're saying
9 there's a rippling effect when we change anything. But we're
10 begging you to give us a fair chance so that all these fine
11 people that come over to this lake can get through Hardy.

12 (audience laughter and applause)

13 BY LEVI PHILLIPS:

14 Governor, Attorney General, and staff. I'm from Carroll
15 County, Levi Phillips. I'd like to say to everybody here it's
16 very pleasing to see people here because this is the way we
17 govern and when somebody says we take politics out of it, we're
18 all here because of politics. We're all here because of our
19 interest in our community.

20 Being from Carroll County, we've been stuck. I've
21 listened to Sharp and I've listened to all the counties. We've
22 been stuck in the northwest part. We're fast-growing also.
23 Probably 36 percent. We've been kind of what I call a step-
24 child to the Benton-Washington County growth, so we've been
25 caught where that the numbers in those counties were not large

1 enough to warrant what the Apportionment Board's got to do, so
2 they take those numbers and spill over to Carroll County and
3 chop us all up.

4 Fortunate enough this time by their tremendous growth in
5 northwest Arkansas and by our growth, we're going to get a
6 representative that just represents Carroll County and the
7 spill-off has got to come from somewhere. And, like I say,
8 Boone County is large enough to where they can't have two
9 representatives and so they're going to get one and their
10 spill-off's got to go somewhere else. I mean, it's that
11 simple. If they've got 35,000 and we need some, there's some
12 that's gotta go. So with that said in the representatives, I
13 mean, you know, as the spill-off comes off of these, they need
14 to go, for the Board of Apportionment to go to precincts that
15 are close to the county line so that there is like communities.

16 I mean, like in Carroll County the precincts that spill-
17 off is Alpena, which Alpena has got some continuity to the rest
18 of Carroll County. Now, when you get into the Senate district,
19 everybody here, realize, everybody -- from what I've listened,
20 everybody wants their own representative and there's nothing.
21 I mean, everybody says it's politics. Ron Maxwell, hey, give
22 us a break. It is politics. We are interested. That's not
23 bad. That's the way we govern ourselves.

24 So it's very, very commendable that everybody's here
25 that's got this interest in this. When we get into the Senate

1 district at the same time, speaking from a smaller county, what
2 I'm hearing is, is Baxter County-Mountain Home, don't want to
3 go against Harrison. Understand. So we split them off but the
4 bigger counties take advantage of the smaller county. We're a
5 rural county.

6 Now then if, in fact, Governor and Attorney General, that
7 this happens, then the rural small agriculture counties that
8 don't have a lot of industry base need to be dominated by
9 larger industrial base. I don't know, you know, we've talked
10 about where the center of activity is. I mean, what is Madison
11 County? We all know that they're going to go to Fayetteville
12 for their business and Carroll County goes to Harrison,
13 Fayetteville, and Branson. I mean, it's just that way.

14 Where does Newton County go? It goes to Boone County in
15 Harrison. So with that said, you know, I think there is some
16 things that need to be looked at to what happens. A large base
17 against smaller rural counties then they don't have a say in
18 it.

19 And I appreciate that being on the election commission may
20 be the hardest job and for everybody to do this. And 10 years
21 ago it was a disaster. I mean, we got -- not a disaster,
22 because the numbers would not fit and we're all talking about
23 numbers and we've got to make the numbers fit.

24 From Carroll County we're going to abide and go by the
25 Board of Apportionment and, you know, it's not an easy job.

1 Somebody's got to be split until the numbers work right.

2 Thank you.

3 (audience applause)

4 BY MR. REEVES:

5 Any other comments? We hope to have this plan as to what

6 the board members tell the staff to go back and do by Labor Day

7 to have a plan that they've voted on and approved. You'll be

8 notified. It'll be on our website as what the map will look

9 like if changes are made and when they're made. So by Labor

10 Day we hope to have this process done. We hope it's sooner

11 than October just to make it easier for everybody.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (unidentified)

13 How do you pull this up on the Web? We tried; it come out

14 all black.

15 BY MR. REEVES:

16 I don't know the answer to that question. You probably

17 have to have an Adobe Reader to be able to see it.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (unidentified)

19 What is the website?

20 BY MR. REEVES:

21 www.ar.state.us/arkdistrict, and that's one word,

22 arkdistrict. You can also leave comments on there for the

23 board. It has our names, our office numbers, the main phone

24 numbers, and the maps are on there as well.

25 BY SHAWN WOMACK:

1 My name's Shawn Womack. I'm the representative from this
2 district and I want to welcome y'all to Mountain Home and my
3 district. First thing I want to do is I want to praise you for
4 something that you did that we asked you to do. And I know
5 that I talked to several of you and several folks in this room
6 called, and that was we wanted to make sure that Baxter County
7 did not get split in the Senate district.

8 When you look at things like ASU, the building we're
9 sitting in, the campus we're on, and right over here at the
10 fairgrounds some of the improvements we're in the process of
11 doing over there with money we got, we wanted to make sure
12 Baxter County did not get split and we appreciate you doing
13 that.

14 I think the folks from Harrison made a great point as far
15 as this being a fast-growing area. Some of you might remember
16 I was slightly involved in the congressional redistricting
17 plans. And one of the points I kept making there was the issue
18 of the one person-one vote and trying to not overpopulate or
19 underpopulate an area. And one of the concerns that I had was
20 when you look at the numbers in Senate Districts 1 and 2, we're
21 79,454 people in Senate District 1, that's plus 4 percent, and
22 there's 73,554 people in Senate District 2, minus 4 percent.

23 And when you look at where the growth is, all of the
24 growth in that seven county region there, or at least
25 substantially the majority of the growth, is in that pink area

1 in Senate District 1.

2 I think Mildred Homan really kind of hit it on the head
3 when she was looking at some of the things you could move there
4 and get right on target with the numbers in the Senate district
5 that will help to prevent the district from outgrowing itself
6 again in the future. I think it would help with compactness
7 and it would also give the City of Harrison their own senator
8 and the City of Mountain Home as the district grows their own
9 senator.

10 One thing I wanted to pass along that I had discussions on
11 the House map; could you put that up for just a second. And,
12 again, on the issue of numbers, I'm House District 40 right
13 now, the purple one right there, House District 81 on that map.
14 When we look at the numbers, one of the concerns I have is
15 again with that being a fast-growing area that's been left at
16 plus 5 percent.

17 All right. It's to the maximum above capacity. That was
18 a concern. And one of the things I've talked to some other
19 folks about outside of Baxter County looking at representation
20 for Baxter County, much like the Sharp County folks, and what
21 I'm going to say affects the residents in Boyd's district and
22 really all this applies to folks for the next 10 years, and
23 we're all three going to be gone in two years under term
24 limits, so, but a lot of folks have expressed that they might
25 be interested in having a second House district in Baxter

1 County with the size of the county now instead of splitting
2 everything outside of what is 81 there into two other districts
3 maybe trying to put that in one district and consolidate that
4 with another county and give us a possibility of electing a
5 second representative from this county.

6 So those are my comments. I think y'all did a good job on
7 keeping Baxter County together. We've heard about Carroll
8 County; I know it's been fractured in the past, it got its own
9 district this time. I know from experience that y'all have
10 been through a lot of hard work, so I appreciate what you've
11 done, and, thanks again for coming to Mountain Home.

12 (audience applause)

13 BY MR. REEVES:

14 If there are no other comments, I'll turn it over to the
15 governor.

16 BY GOVERNOR HUCKABEE:

17 I'll let the Attorney General give us some closing
18 comments, then I'll close before we leave.

19 BY ATTORNEY GENERAL PRYOR:

20 I just want to thank all of you for being here and I don't
21 know if we emphasized this in our opening statements, maybe we
22 did, but I think the governor mentioned it. But this map you
23 see here is a draft; we're going to take your comments and go
24 back to Little Rock and put our heads together and, you know,
25 see what can be done to address some of your concerns. And we

1 just appreciate y'all coming out. It's kind of like Levi
2 Phillips said, you know, this is democracy and this is what
3 it's about. This process has been somewhat long and we've had
4 a lot of input from a lot of different folks, but it's worth it
5 because it's about you and we just appreciate y'all's time and
6 your interest and we're just glad to be here on this great
7 campus and you've got so much to be proud of here in this
8 community as well as the other communities up here in this part
9 of the state.

10 Thank y'all.

11 (audience applause)

12 BY GOVERNOR HUCKABEE:

13 I want to echo the appreciation for the opportunity to use
14 this beautiful campus and also many of you have driven quite a
15 few miles to be here and just I'm going to go ahead and say
16 this so you don't have to come up and remind me. Some of you
17 remind me that the roads up in this part of the state are not
18 the easiest roads to drive.

19 (audience applause and laughter)

20 I knew that you were going to say it, so I wanted to go
21 ahead and get that out of the way so I don't have to say it
22 later.

23 (audience laughter)

24 I appreciate the comments and I especially appreciate
25 first of all, the thoughtfulness of your comments today. There

1 was not a single person, I tried to take notes on everyone who
2 spoke, and not a single person was speaking with just raw
3 emotion but even though there was a lot of emotion to display,
4 as there should be when it comes to their representation.
5 Thoughtful discourse today and I appreciate that.

6 It was very evident that many of you have thought about
7 how these boundaries could and should be lined up in a way that
8 it treats your fellow citizens in your area more fairly, and I
9 hope that we can truly take to heart what we heard today and
10 find a way to make as much of that happen as possible.

11 I think Mark and I would both want you to know that if we
12 end up with a draft that you really like, we did it.

13 (audience laughter)

14 If it ends up that it's not what you like, that dang staff
15 messed us up again.

16 (audience laughter)

17 But we, I think, sincerely appreciate what you have shared
18 with us today and we want to take it to heart and try to find
19 out are there ways to try to accommodate the concerns you have.
20 And I certainly hope there is because you've made a lot of
21 sense, which we don't hear a lot of in government most of the
22 time, so we're delighted to hear some good common sense and
23 that's refreshing.

24 Again, your comments were thoughtful, they were respectful
25 and kind, but clear, and I appreciate it. I hope that this has

1 been worth your time; it certainly has been ours. We
2 appreciate your participation. We'd like for you to continue
3 to log on the website, look at the continuing drafts, write or
4 call, offer any other suggestion that you may have, and
5 hopefully by around Labor Day when the final drafts are put
6 forth, I hope we're all happy with them as best as any of us
7 can be with the process that is as difficult and delicate as
8 this one.

9 And with that, we'll close the meeting and thank you very,
10 very much. Have a great weekend.

11 (audience applause)

12 (public hearing adjourned)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF ARKANSAS)

) SS

COUNTY OF IZARD)

I, Darcy Pollack, certified court reporter and notary public within and for the County of IZARD, State of Arkansas, do hereby certify the foregoing is a true and complete transcript to the best of my ability and understanding of the State of Arkansas Board of Apportionment Public Hearing, Friday, July 20, 2001, Mountain Home, Arkansas.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not financially interested in the outcome of this action, a relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor a relative or employee of such attorney or counsel.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2001.

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: _____

CCR # _____